

victims of sexual abuse. Though she refused to discuss the specifics of those cases, she said they were heartbreakingly real.

"This is a significant and very real problem, and it's outrageous," she said.

Child welfare attorney Jessica Rae had several examples of her own. She recalled checking up on a 4-year-old in state custody recently and being asked a chilling question by his foster mother.

"The woman said to me, 'How would anyone know that I don't have him locked in the basement?'"

"It was a very disturbing thing to hear," Rae said, because she knew the answer: No one would know. The state social worker assigned to check monthly on the boy had not been in touch for nearly six months.

Advocates said that even routine responsibilities, such as ensuring that children see dentists, have clearly been neglected. "Kids come in here and their teeth are totally brown," Little said. "You don't need an expert to tell you they're not getting care."

Mitchell Mirviss, a Baltimore lawyer who argued a landmark case on child welfare in Maryland 13 years ago, said deficiencies such as the ones described in the audit have not been as profoundly documented in more than a decade.

"You're seeing results that are very alarming," he said. "It's a strong confirmation of what the attorneys who represent these kids in juvenile court have been saying. The problems are serious and endemic."

Mouzon said advocates are exaggerating the problem. "Everybody knows of one or two cases where something went wrong. I'm not going to say that's not true," she said. "But I would believe that the majority of our children are safe and are getting the best service possible."

Though there are plans in place to improve the system—such as an initiative to give social workers hand-held computers that allow them to better document their visits with children—Mouzon said no action has come as a direct result of the auditors' findings.

That response surprised many of the advocates, who began circulating copies of the audit in July; it was released in May. Sharon Rubenstein, communications director at Advocates for Children and Youth, said that when she began reading it, her jaw dropped.

"It made me wonder, how can we rest assured that the kids in our system are safe?" she said. "I don't think that the audit should leave us sleeping well at night."

REGARDING PUBLIC HEALTH PESTICIDE BILL

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce an important piece of legislation that will help deal with the spread of insect, rodent and microbiological borne illnesses in the United States.

In 1996, Congress passed the Food Quality Protection Act which defined within the existing Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) the term "public health pesticide" to ensure that effective products were readily available for the public's protection. However, an error was made as the legislation was being prepared whereby this definition was unintentionally limited to "minor use pesticides" used by public health agencies and does not incorporate products which

have traditionally been considered public health pesticides, such as consumer pesticide products.

FIFRA requires the EPA to consider threats to public health in the registration and reregistration of public health pesticides. The statutory criteria used to establish "minor use" eliminates many products from being considered "public health pesticides". My legislation would correct this oversight. The effect of this technical correction would be to treat all public health pesticides equally. Specifically, the legislation would make the provisions of the FIFRA applicable to a broader category of beneficial products. These products ensure that the American public has the proper tools to protect themselves against disease.

We have been hearing recently about the serious public health dangers of West Nile virus, but there are many insect and rodent borne illnesses and infectious diseases. Lyme disease, Hantavirus, encephalitis, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Colorado Tick Fever, Tick Borne Relapsing Fever and many others threaten the health of all Americans. In addition, microorganisms such as *E. Coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Listeria monocytogenes*, and numerous species of *Salmonella*, pathogenic mold, mildew and fungi pose serious threats to public health.

With insect borne disease on the increase in the United States, it is vital that EPA look at the benefits in all stages of the process for the products that protect the public from pests that pose a threat to public health. Likewise, antimicrobial pesticides used against human pathogens are vital to public health and benefits of these products also should be considered by EPA.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on this issue which is very important to public health in the United States and across the globe.

SEPTEMBER 11TH VICTIM COMPENSATION FUND FAMILY BENEFITS FAIRNESS ACT

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, many of us will travel to New York this Friday to pay homage to the victims of last September's terrorist attacks. Even more meaningful to the surviving families than traveling to New York will be this House's commitment to ensuring that victims' families will have the same opportunities they had before their loved one was killed.

After losing their sole source of financial support, many families are worried that they won't be able to afford college or stay in the neighborhood they have lived in for years. Because of an interpretation of the current laws governing the Victim Compensation Fund, the amount that each victim's family will receive will be lowered by the amount they will get in Social Security survivors' benefits. My legislation, the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund Family Benefits Fairness Act, permits the victims and their families of the terrorist attacks to receive the compensation we meant to provide them when we passed the Victim Compensation Fund.

Public support for the victims and their families has been consistent and heartfelt. Ameri-

cans continue to support the families who lost their mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers or friends. We need to ensure that their lives are not further devastated by losing the financial position they had before the attack. My legislation shows the victims that the United States Congress continues to understand their great loss. The bill demonstrates that we are going to treat the families of those who died in the attack fairly. We will make sure that the children of the victims grow up to be successful with faith that American values are unwavering.

The Victim Compensation Fund must not offset the amount a family receives from Social Security. My bill changes the statute to make clear that survivors' benefits will not be offset by the Special Master. This will help ensure that this terrible loss will not result in decreased standards of living or lost opportunities for their children.

HONORING DR. MORRIS CHAPMAN OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a milestone in the life and career of Dr. Morris Chapman, the president and chief executive officer of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention. On October 1, 2002, Dr. Chapman will be celebrating his 10th anniversary as a member of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The Mississippi native became a Christian at the age of 7 and was called to preach at the age of 21. Dr. Chapman has received several college degrees, including doctorates of ministry, sacred theology and divinity, and has been the pastor of several churches in Texas and New Mexico. He has traveled extensively in the U.S. and abroad while spreading the word of God. And he has written several books about Christianity.

Dr. Chapman has received numerous awards and citations for his work, including the Outstanding Young Man of America in 1973 and 1974 and Who's Who in Religion in 1977. He has also served on numerous civic boards and organizations.

Dr. Chapman's faith and his dedication to serving people of all walks of life are truly inspirational. I cordially congratulate Dr. Chapman for his tireless work in the ministry and his 10 years of serving on the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

IN RECOGNITION OF GLADYS BROWN McFARLANE

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 2002

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor Gladys Brown McFarlane, known to many as Sister Brown, as she turns 100. She is a remarkable woman for her devotion to her peers, community and country. I have known